

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division

Designated Uses and Criteria for South Slough Wetland, Subsegment 040604-001
(LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3) (WQ063)

Under the authority of the Environmental Quality Act, R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., the secretary gives notice that rulemaking procedures have been initiated to amend the Water Quality regulations, LAC 33:IX.1123.Table 3 (Log #WQ063).

The proposed rule establishes South Slough Wetland as subsegment 040604-001, located southeast of Hammond. Site-specific criteria and designated uses have been established for South Slough Wetland based on a scientific study conducted from March 2003 to April 2005. Results of the study are summarized in a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) report entitled "Hammond Wetland Wastewater Assimilation Use Attainability Analysis." LAC 33:IX.1123 contains numerical criteria and designated uses of water bodies and is being revised to include South Slough Wetland, subsegment 040604-001. A UAA with supportive technical rationale has been developed that supports the implementation of a wastewater discharge and assimilation in South Slough Wetland. This action is required to establish site-specific criteria and designated uses for South Slough Wetland in the Water Quality Standards.

The UAA characterized the chemical, physical, and biological factors of South Slough Wetland. Also included in the UAA are water quality analysis, sediment characterization, vegetation composition, hydrology, and productivity analysis. This data establishes base conditions and criteria to support water uses in the South Slough Wetland. The UAA is located in the Standards, Assessment, and Nonpoint Source files in the Water Quality Assessment Division. According to the regulations, a UAA is defined as "a structured scientific assessment of the factors (chemical, physical, biological, and economic) affecting the attainment of designated uses in a water body." (See 40 CFR 131.3(g) and LAC 33:IX.1105.) The UAA process is described in 40 CFR 131.10 and LAC 33:IX.1109.B.3. It entails the methodical collection of data that is then scientifically analyzed and summarized and used to establish site-specific uses and criteria. The basis and rationale for this rule are to establish numerical criteria for the new South Slough Wetland, subsegment 040604-001, based on the Use Attainability Analysis.

This proposed rule meets an exception listed in R.S. 30:2019(D)(2) and R.S. 49:953(G)(3); therefore, no report regarding environmental/health benefits and social/economic costs is required. This proposed rule has no known impact on family formation, stability, and autonomy as described in R.S. 49:972.

A public hearing will be held on March 28, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Galvez Building, Oliver Pollock Conference Room, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments on the proposed amendments. Should individuals with a disability need an accommodation in order to participate, contact Judith A. Schuerman, Ph.D., at the address given below or at (225) 219-3550. Free parking is available in the Galvez Garage when the parking ticket is validated by department personnel at the hearing.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Persons commenting should reference this proposed regulation by WQ063. Such comments must be received no later than April 4, 2006, at 4:30 p.m., and should be sent to Judith A. Schuerman, Ph.D., Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, Box 4302, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4302 or to FAX (225) 219-3582 or by e-mail to

judith.schuerman@la.gov. Copies of this proposed regulation can be purchased by contacting the DEQ Public Records Center at (225) 219-3168. Check or money order is required in advance for each copy of WQ063. This regulation is available on the Internet at www.deq.louisiana.gov under Rules and Regulations.

This proposed regulation is available for inspection at the following DEQ office locations from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.: 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; 1823 Highway 546, West Monroe, LA 71292; State Office Building, 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71101; 1301 Gadwall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615; 111 New Center Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508; 110 Barataria Street, Lockport, LA 70374.

Herman Robinson, CPM
Executive Counsel

Title 33

Environmental Quality

Part IX. Water Quality

Subpart 1. Water Pollution Control

Chapter 11. Surface Water Quality Standards

§1123. Numerical Criteria and Designated Uses

A. – C.2. ...

3. Designated Uses. The following are the category definitions of designated uses that are used in Table 3 under the subheading “Designated Uses.”

- A – Primary Contact Recreation
- B – Secondary Contact Recreation
- C – Fish and Wildlife Propagation
- L – Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use
- D – Drinking Water Supply
- E – Oyster Propagation
- F – Agriculture
- G – Outstanding Natural Resource Waters

4. Endnotes. Numbers in brackets, e.g. [1], in Table 3 refer to endnotes listed at the end of the table.

Table 3. Numerical Criteria and Designated Uses									
A-Primary Contact Recreation; B-Secondary Contact Recreation; C-Fish and Wildlife Propagation; L-Limited Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use; D-Drinking Water Supply; E-Oyster Propagation; F-Agriculture; G-Outstanding Natural Resource Waters									
Code	Stream Description	Designated Uses	Numerical Criteria						
			CL	SO ₄	DO	pH	BAC	°C	TDS
* * * [See Prior Text in 010101 – 031201]									
Lake Pontchartrain Basin (04)									
* * * [See Prior Text in 040101 – 040604]									
040604-001	<u>South Slough Wetland—Forested freshwater and brackish marsh located 1.4 miles south of the City of Pontchatoula, directly east of I-55, extending to North Pass to the south and the Tangipahoa River to the east</u>	B C	[23]	[23]	[23]	[23]	2	[23]	[23]
* * * [See Prior Text in 040605 – 120806]									

ENDNOTES:

[1] – [24] ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2074(B)(1).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Water Resources, LR 15:738 (September 1989), amended LR 17:264 (March 1991), LR 20:431 (April 1994), LR 20:883 (August 1994), LR 21:683 (July 1995), LR 22:1130 (November 1996), LR 24:1926 (October 1998), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 25:2405 (December 1999), LR 27:289 (March 2001), LR 28:462 (March 2002), LR 28:1762 (August 2002), LR 29:1814, 1817 (September 2003), LR 30:1474 (July 2004), amended by the Office of Environmental Assessment, LR 30:2468 (November 2004), LR 31:918, 921 (April 2005), amended by the Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 32:**, **, **.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

LOG #: WQ063

Person

Preparing

Statement: Kimberly M. Hamilton-DavisDept.: Environmental QualityPhone: (225) 219-3588Office: Environmental AssessmentReturn P.O. Box 4314

Rule

Address: Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314Title: Designated Uses and Criteria for South
Slough Wetland, Subsegment 040604-
001(LAC 33:IX.1123, Table 3)

Date Rule

Takes Effect: Upon promulgation**SUMMARY**

(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

This proposed rule is expected to have no significant effect on state or local governmental expenditures.

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

No significant effect on state or local governmental revenue collections is anticipated.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

No significant costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons or non-governmental groups are anticipated.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

No significant effect on competition or employment is anticipated.

Signature of Agency Head or Designee

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICER OR DESIGNEE

Herman Robinson, CPM, Executive Counsel
Typed Name and Title of Agency Head
or Designee

Date of Signature

Date of Signature

LFO 7/1/94

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The following information is requested in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriate legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberation on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of both the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The proposed rule is to establish South Slough Wetland as subsegment 040604-001 located southeast of Hammond. Site-specific criteria and designated uses have been established for South Slough Wetland based on a scientific study conducted from March 2003 to April 2005. Results of the study are summarized in a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) report entitled "Hammond Wetland Wastewater Assimilation Use Attainability Analysis."

- B. Summarize the circumstances which require this action. If the Action is required by federal regulation, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

LAC 33:IX.1123 contains numerical criteria and designated uses of water bodies, and will be revised to include South Slough Wetland subsegment 040604-001. A UAA with supportive technical rationale has been developed that supports the implementation of a wastewater discharge and assimilation in South Slough Wetland. This action is required to establish site-specific criteria and designated uses for South Slough Wetland in the Water Quality Standards.

- C. Compliance with Act II of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session
 - (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in the expenditure of funds? If so, specify amount and source of funding.

The proposed rule will not result in any increase in the expenditure of funds by the state.

- 2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

- (a) Yes. If yes, attach documentation.
- (b) No. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

This question is not applicable.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

WORKSHEET

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

No significant increase or decrease in costs to implement this rule is anticipated.

COSTS	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0
OPERATING EXPENSES	0	0	0
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	0	0
OTHER CHARGES	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0
MAJOR REPAIR & CONSTR.	0	0	0
POSITIONS (#)	0	0	0

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1.", including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

This is not applicable.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

This is not applicable.

SOURCE	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
STATE GENERAL FUND	0	0	0
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	0	0	0
DEDICATED	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0
OTHER (Specify)	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

The department currently has sufficient funds to implement the amendment.

B. COST OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

No significant impact is anticipated on local governments, including adjustments in workload or paperwork requirements.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of the local governmental unit which will be affected by these costs or savings.

No significant effect on any sources of funding of local governmental units is anticipated to result from the implementation of the proposed rule.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET**

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

No significant increase or decrease in revenues is anticipated.

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 05-06	FY 06-07	FY 07-08
STATE GENERAL FUND	0	0	0
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	0	0	0
RESTRICTED FUNDS*	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0
LOCAL FUNDS	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A." Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

This is not applicable.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

A. What persons or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.), they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

No persons or non-governmental groups will be directly affected by the proposed action.

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

No significant impact on receipts and/or income is anticipated.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

No significant impact is anticipated on competition or employment in the public or private sector.